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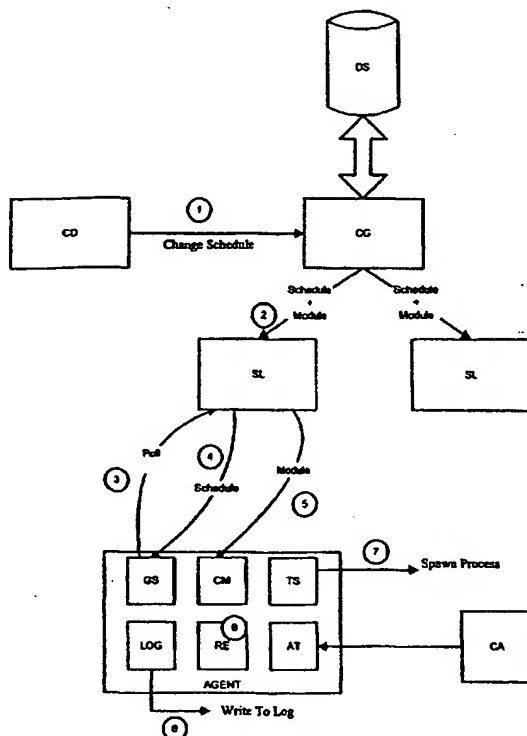
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING NETWORKS USING LOCAL INTELLIGENT AGENTS



(57) Abstract: A method and system for network management. According to one embodiment, a centralized data store is used for central configuration of the monitoring and management of computers and their applications, an intelligent agent (running on each of the hosts of the managed network) has the capability to differentiate between the individuality of systems being managed by using rules based on attributes and variations in the attributes of the host system, (100) and a graphical user interface is provided for centralized management of the host on the managed network (Fig.2). The invention may be used to carry out administrative tasks on the hosts of the managed network.

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SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING NETWORKS USING LOCAL INTELLIGENT AGENTS

5 Cross Reference To Related Application

This application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/304,797, filed July 13, 2001, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Background Of The Invention

- 10 One of the most common challenges faced by enterprise system administrators is managing and monitoring systems ranging from personal computers to servers across a network. Another challenge faced by system administrators is presented by applications running on these systems throughout the network - not only do they vary in terms of types, but also in terms of version number within the types.
- 15 Moreover, applications are frequently changed by users which makes it difficult for systems administrators to manage, monitor and correct errors.

- Currently, system administration is done by performing most actions manually, in which the system administrator (1) periodically issues commands to gather information regarding the state of the systems in the network, (2) detects any
- 20 problems based on the above information, and (3) takes corrective actions for the detected problem. Automation of a system administrator's task is difficult for several reasons. One reason is that it is difficult to obtain data regarding the state of the systems. Typically, one must issue a variety of commands and consider several pieces of information from each command in order to diagnose a problem, and these
- 25 commands must be repeated on each machine. Another reason is that the detection of a problem and creation of an appropriate solution depends on various external factors such as the occurrence time of the problem. For example, overloading of a system leading to a slow response is a problem during business hours but not at midnight. Identifying and testing of all conditions is a difficult task.

- 30 A common solution of the above network management problem is to utilize a tool that provides a centralized console that can be used to trap, monitor, and maintain a network environment. Another solution is to use a system of multiple